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2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the repertoire of polypeptides is first contacted with the target ligand and then with the generic ligand.

- 3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the generic ligand binds a subset of the repertoire of polypeptides.
- 4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3 wherein two or more subsets are selected from the repertoire of polypeptides.
- 5. (Amended) The method according to claim 4 wherein the selection is performed with two or more generic ligands.
- 6. (Amended) The method according to claims 4 or 5 wherein the two or more subsets are combined after selection to produce a further repertoire of polypeptides.
- 7. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein two or more repertoires of polypeptides are contacted with generic ligands and the subsets of polypeptides thereby obtained are then combined.
- 8. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptides of the repertoire are of the immunoglobulin superfamily.
- 9. (Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the polypeptides are antibody or T-cell receptor polypeptides.
- 10. (Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the polypeptides are V_{H} or V_{β} domains.
- 11. (Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the polypeptides are V_L or V_α domains.
- 13. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the generic ligand is selected from the group consisting of a matrix of metallic ions, an organic compound, a protein, a peptide, a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody population, and a superantigen.